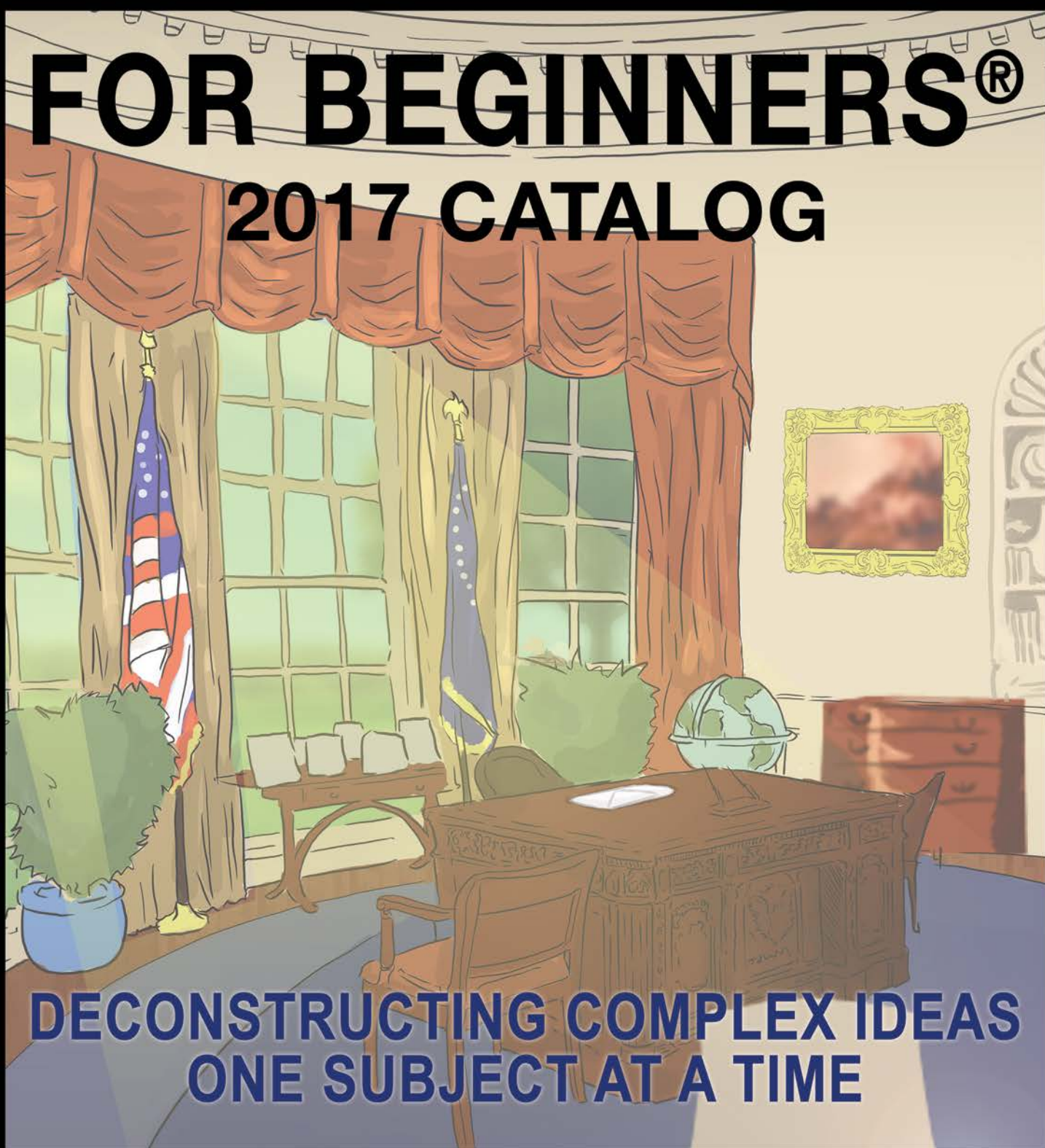


FOR BEGINNERS®

2017 CATALOG



**DECONSTRUCTING COMPLEX IDEAS
ONE SUBJECT AT A TIME**

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES • ART • GENDER STUDIES
HISTORY • PHILOSOPHY • POLITICS • SCIENCE

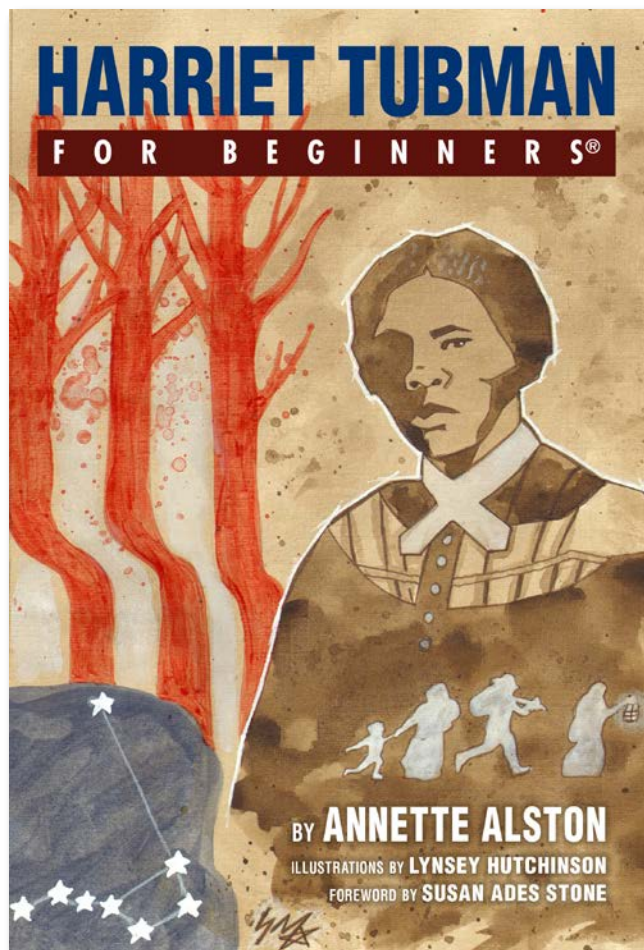
forbeginnersbooks.com

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Harriet Tubman For Beginners



As the most famous “conductor” on the Underground Railroad, escaped slave Harriet Tubman earned the nickname “Moses of her people” for leading scores of men, women, and children from bondage to freedom in the North. During the Civil War, she worked as a nurse for wounded soldiers, a caretaker of refugee slaves, and a spy and scout for Union forces. Late in life she was active in the fight for women’s suffrage.

Mythologized by many biographers and historians, Tubman was an ordinary but complex woman—tiny but strong, guided by her belief in God and religious visions, yet a tough, savvy leader whom the radical abolitionist John Brown admired as “the General.” In 2016, it was announced that Tubman would become the first woman to appear on U.S. currency—the \$20 bill—in over a century.

Drawing on the latest historical research, *Harriet Tubman For Beginners* portrays a woman who resisted and transcended slavery and fought injustice her entire life. Beyond legend, she made her mark on history by defending core American principles—life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness—for *others*.

American History/Black History/Civil Rights

Trade Paperback 6x9

176 PP

\$15.95 (\$22.95 CAN)

B/W Illustrations

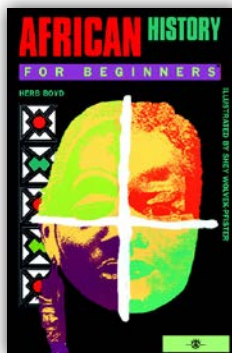
ISBN: 978-1-939994-72-1

eISBN: 978-1-939994-73-8

ANNETTE ALSTON, AUTHOR Annette Alston is a longtime educator in the Newark (NJ) public school system and has served as president the Newark Teachers’ Association. Her writings have appeared in the *New York Amsterdam News*, *NJEA Review*, and *NJEA Reporter*, and she is a past recipient of the National Newspaper Association Merit Award. Annette has a B.A. in journalism from Rutgers University–New Brunswick and an M.A. in Social Studies from Concordia University.

LYNSEY HUTCHINSON, ILLUSTRATOR Lynsey Hutchinson is a freelance illustrator and musician from Edinburgh, Scotland. Her work was first published in the award-winning graphic novel ‘Burke & Hare’ (Insomnia 2009) alongside such celebrated artists as Frank Quietly and Rian Hughes. She is one of the creators behind the Southern Gothic anthology *Bayou Arcana: Songs of Loss and Redemption* (Markosia 2012) contributing the strip ‘Grinder Blues’. Both Lynsey and her artwork appeared in the BAFTA-nominated 2011 independent Scottish film ‘Electric Man’. You can check out her illustrations and music at www.thehoudinibox.com

AFRICAN HISTORY FOR BEGINNERS

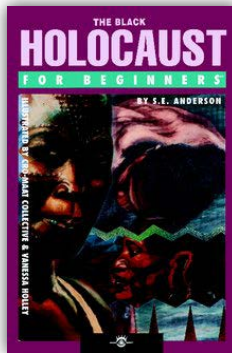


Herb Boyd. Illustrated by Shey Wolvek-Pfister.

African History For Beginners explores the rich history of this continent of contrasts. Discover the glory of the Pharaohs and Towers of Zimbabwe, the cosmology of the Yoruba, the courage of the Masai and the golden wonders of Mali, the art treasures of the Bushongo and the sophistication of the Egyptians. It is a unique documentary portrait of the Africans' struggle to preserve their cultural heritage and homeland. Over the ages, the riches and wonders of Africa have attracted the world. Yet the Africans themselves often remained unknown or misunderstood. Here is a book to set the historical record straight.

African American Studies/History • \$14.95 (**\$21.95 CAN**)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 128 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-934389-18-8 | eISBN: 978-1-934389-95-9

THE BLACK HOLOCAUST FOR BEGINNERS

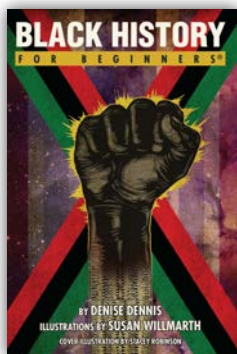


S.E. Anderson. Illustrated by Vanessa Holley.

How many African human beings were killed in the Black Holocaust? And how many were enslaved? The Black Holocaust is the most under reported major event in world history. A major economic event for Europe and Asia, a near fatal event for Africa, the seminal event in the history of every African American – if not every American! – and most of us cannot answer the simplest question about it. *The Black Holocaust For Beginners* puts the tragic event in plain sight where it belongs and answers all of your questions.

African American Studies/History • \$16.99 (**\$24.99 CAN**)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 192 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-934389-03-4 | eISBN: 978-1-934389-99-7

BLACK HISTORY FOR BEGINNERS



Denise Dennis. Illustrated by Susan Willmarth.

The only way to help abolish racial stereotypes of black people throughout history is to understand the history. A reprint of one of the most popular For Beginners books, **Black History For Beginners** covers an often ignored past. Denise Dennis chronicles the struggle from capture and enslavement in Africa right up through Civil Rights and the different kind of struggle Blacks face today.

African American Studies/History • \$16.99 (**\$24.99 CAN**)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 192 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-934389-19-5 | eISBN: 978-1-934389-98-0

BLACK PANTHERS FOR BEGINNERS



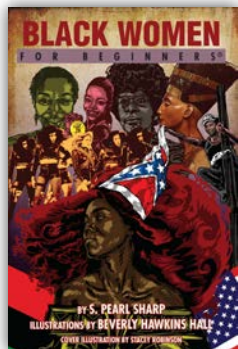
Herb Boyd. Illustrated by Lance Took.

The late 1960s, when the Panthers captured the imagination of the nation's youth, was a time of regulation. While their furious passage was marked by death, destruction and government sabotage, the Panthers left an instructive legacy for anyone daring enough to challenge the system. Herb Boyd has done exhaustive research, examined the claims of all parties involved, and boiled the story down to "the truth." We believe this is the most truthful book on the market, but each Panther has his/her own story to tell.

Social Science/Black Studies • \$15.95 (**\$22.95 CAN**)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 160 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-939994-39-4 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-40-0



BLACK WOMEN FOR BEGINNERS



S. Pearl Sharp. Illustrated by Beverly Hawkins Hall.

Black Women For Beginners chronicles the trials and triumphs of Black Women from antiquity to the present, reflecting with wit and humor the challenges they have faced and the fortitude and strength that have sustained Black Women and patterned history with a diversity of excellence. As warriors, healers, teachers, mothers, queens, and liberators Black Women have had tremendous impact in society. Replete with a glossary of reference terms, *Black Women For Beginners* whimsically details the influence of stereotypes on the portrayal of Black Women in various venues and punctuates the absurd.

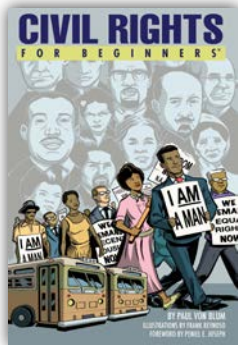
African American Studies/Women's Studies • \$14.95 (\$21.95 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 192 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-20-1 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-00-4



CIVIL RIGHTS FOR BEGINNERS



Paul Von Blum. Illustrated by Frank Reynoso.

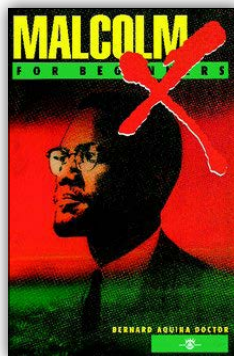
Civil Rights For Beginners fills a major gap by placing the modern civil rights movement into a broader historical perspective. It also discusses the civil rights and liberation movements from the 60s to the present that the African American freedom struggles helped to catalyze. Unlike most civil rights books, *Civil Rights For Beginners* focuses less on major leaders and more on the ordinary African Americans who provided the backbone of the successful protests and demonstrations.

Political Science • \$15.95 (\$21.50 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 176 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-89-8 | eISBN: 978-1-934389-90-4

MALCOLM X FOR BEGINNERS



Bernard Aquina Doctor.

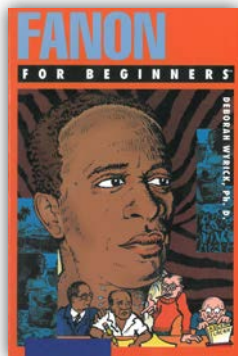
Malcolm X For Beginners reveals the teacher, the leader, and the revolutionary voice of change that Malcolm X was and continues to be. Powerful narrative and graphics tell the story of Malcolm X's life, his journey of self-discovery, his far-reaching ideas, his martyrdom, and his impact on an era. Embraced as a righteous prophet of Black power and pride, damned as the voice of violence, Malcolm X emerges as a complex, brave, and brilliant figure with much to teach about the struggle for dignity.

African American Studies/History • \$16.99 (\$24.99 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 192 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-04-1 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-15-8

FANON FOR BEGINNERS



Deborah Wyrick, PhD.

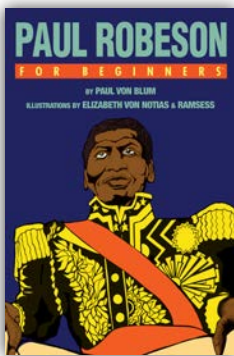
Fanon For Beginners opens with a biography, following Fanon from his birthplace of Martinique to his heroic involvement in the fights for Algerian independence and African decolonization. After a brief discussion of Fanon's political and cultural influences, the main section of the book covers the three principal stages of Fanon's thought: "The Search for Black Identity," "The Struggle Against Colonialism," "The Process of Decolonization."

Philosophy/Black Studies • \$15.95 (\$22.95 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 192 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-87-4 | eISBN: 978-1-934389-88-1

PAUL ROBESON FOR BEGINNERS



Paul Von Blum.

Illustrated by Elizabeth Von Notias & Ramsess.

Any serious treatment of civil rights history and radical politics as well as American sports, musical, theatrical, and film history must consider the enormous contributions of Paul Robeson. An exceptional scholar, lawyer, athlete, stage and screen actor, linguist, singer, and civil rights and political activist, he performed brilliantly in every professional enterprise he undertook. *Paul Robeson For Beginners* is here to demystify and give long overdue credence to the life of this extraordinary American.

Biography/African American History • \$16.99 (\$24.99 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 144 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-81-2 | eISBN: 978-1-934389-82-9

ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONISM FOR BEGINNERS



Richard Klein. Illustrated by Lily Prince.
Foreword by Steven Zucker.

Abstract Expressionism was the defining movement in American art during the years following World War II, making New York City the center of the international art scene. But what the heck did it mean?! The drips, the spills, the splashes, the blotches of color, the wild spontaneous energy—signifying what?

Here's the book that will not only help you understand, but appreciate the art of some of the most iconic figures in modern art—Jackson Pollock, Willem de Kooning, Mark Rothko, Helen

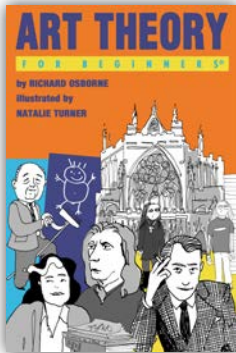
Frankenthaler, and others.

Art • \$15.95 (\$22.95 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 184 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-939994-62-2 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-63-9

ART THEORY FOR BEGINNERS



Richard Osborne. Illustrated by Natalie Turner.

From Paleolithic cave-painting to postmodernism, *Art Theory For Beginners* is a concise and entertaining survey of the major historical and current debates on art. Painters, theorists and philosophers are all included to show how the idea of art has developed over the last 5,000 years. Art is a visual representation of a range of concepts, stories and emotions, including curiosity, humanity, political statements, and the Self. *Art Theory For Beginners* examines and explains the development of the different ways in which people study, interpret and appreciate art in its rich variety of forms.

Art History/Theory • \$16.99 (\$24.99 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 192 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-47-8

DADA & SURREALISM FOR BEGINNERS



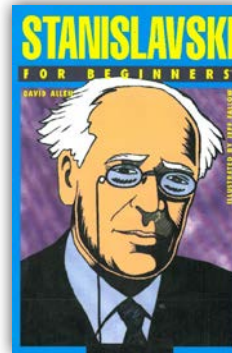
Elsa & Peter Bethanis. Illustrated by Joe Lee.
What kind of artists put a mustache on the Mona Lisa? Enter a urinal in an art competition? Declare their own independent republic? Hijack a ship? Dadas! With Dada, many of the artists declared their own "Pope" and continued their journey (with no destination) into Surrealism, creating some of the most imaginative and intense works of art of the 20th Century. In *Dada & Surrealism For Beginners*, you'll get a colorful overview of these two movements, and develop a sense of the turbulent, wild, and unapologetically mad mood and tone of the Dada and Surrealist movements.

Art/Philosophy • \$14.95 (\$21.95 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 128 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-00-3 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-02-8

STANISLAVSKI FOR BEGINNERS



David Allen. Illustrated by Jeff Fallow.

Stanislavski was the first person to develop a cogent and practical system of acting. He remains the most important influence on actor training today. And yet many of his ideas are little known and even misunderstood.

Stanislavski For Beginners is both an invaluable guide to the Stanislavski system and a fascinating chronicle of his life. It shatters some common myths and misconceptions, and blows away the cobwebs, bringing his ideas vividly to life.

Drama/Performing Arts • \$15.95 (\$22.95 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 192 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-939994-35-6 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-36-3



ARABS & ISRAEL FOR BEGINNERS



Ron David, Ph.D. Illustrated by Susan David.

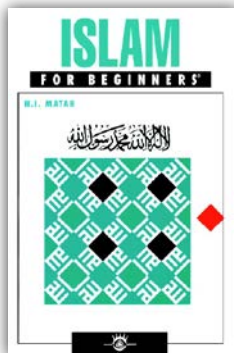
Arabs & Israel For Beginners covers the Middle East from ancient times to the present, tells the truth in plain English, and is one of the few non-scholarly books that is relentlessly fair to both Jews and Arabs. If you want to continue to believe fairy tales about Arabs in Israel, don't touch this book – it will surely be hazardous to your closed mind. If you want the truth about 12,000 years of Middle Eastern History, then *Arabs & Israel For Beginners* is the perfect place to start.

Middle Eastern Studies/History • \$14.95 (\$21.95 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 224 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-16-4 | eISBN: 978-1-934389-96-6

ISLAM FOR BEGINNERS



N.I. Matar. Illustrated by H.N. Haddad.

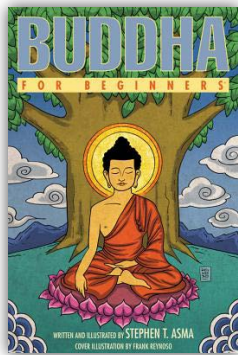
Starting with the life of the prophet Mohammed, *Islam For Beginners* details the historic beginnings of Islam and its spread throughout the Middle East and Africa on to the European and American continents. It describes the major achievements of the Muslim community worldwide and examines the influence Islam has had on other cultures. In keeping with Islamic tradition, the illustrations in the book are rendered in two-dimensional silhouettes and shadows and include the repetitive, extendible patterns representative of Islamic expression.

Religion/Islam • \$14.95 (\$21.95 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 246 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-01-0 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-10-3

BUDDHA FOR BEGINNERS



Stephen T. Asma, PhD.

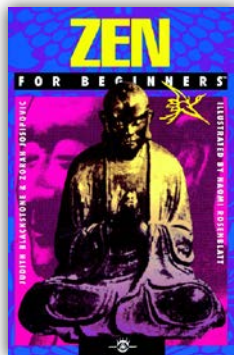
Buddha For Beginners compares Buddha's philosophy with those of his contemporaries, the later Buddhist schools, and Western Philosophy. The book includes a survey, distinguishing the philosophical differences of later schools like Theravada, Madhyamaika, Tantric, Zen, and others. *Buddha For Beginners* is not a book you read, it is a book you experience. It makes you stop and close your eyes. Through some magical combination of words, drawings, and intuitive wisdom, *Buddha For Beginners* conveys not only the facts of Buddhism, but the peace, the silence... the feel of it.

Buddhism/Philosophy • \$15.95 (\$22.95 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 160 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-939994-33-2 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-34-9

ZEN FOR BEGINNERS



Judith Blackstone and Zoran Josipovic.

Illustrated by Naomi Rosenblatt.

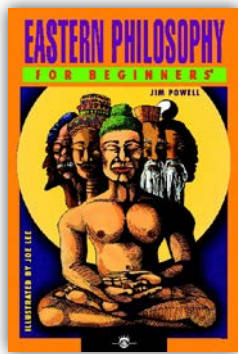
Zen, from its foundation in China of the 6th Century A.D., has always been more than a religion. It is an intriguing system of principles and practices designed to give each individual the experience of eternity in a split second, the knowledge of divinity in every living thing. *Zen For Beginners* uses an engaging mix of clear, informative writing and delightful illustrations to document the story of Zen from its impact on Chinese and Japanese culture to its influence on American writers such as Allen Ginsberg, Jack Kerouac, and Gary Snyder.

Philosophy/Religion • \$16.99 (\$24.99 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 176 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-06-5 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-24-0

EASTERN PHILOSOPHY FOR BEGINNERS



Jim Powell. Illustrated by Joe Lee.

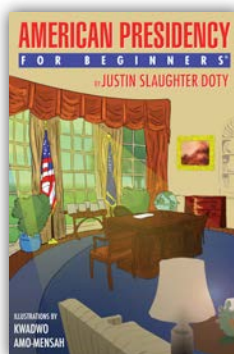
Eastern Philosophy is not an intellectual pursuit, but one that involves one's entire being. Much of it is so deeply entwined with the non-intellectual art of meditation, that the two are impossible to separate. In this accessible survey of the major philosophies of India, China, Tibet, and Japan, Jim Powell draws upon his knowledge of Sanskrit and Chinese, as well as decades of meditation. Whether tackling Buddha, Confucius, Lao Tzu, Dogen, the Dalai Lama or Pantajal – Powell's insights are deeply illuminating. All the major philosophies are explained and everyone – from beginner to expert – will find *Eastern Philosophy For Beginners* a beautiful and insightful overview.

Eastern Philosophy/Reference • \$16.99 (\$24.99 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 192 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-07-2 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-06-6

THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY FOR BEGINNERS



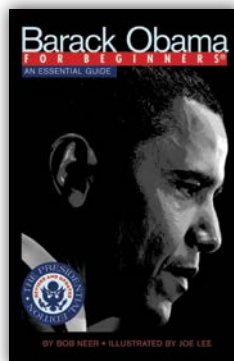
Justin Slaughter Doty.
Illustrated by Kwadwo Amo-Mensah.

The American Presidency For Beginners tells a concise history of the actions and consequences of all forty-four Presidents. The evolution of the Presidency is highlighted in ten different sections: from weak curator of Congress to becoming the titan of policy, both domestic and foreign.

The American Presidency For Beginners is a must read for those who find the position of commander-in-chief compelling, and who want to learn more about the eclectic personalities that have led the US.

U.S. History • \$15.95 (**\$22.95 CAN**)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 176 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-939994-70-7 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-71-4

BARACK OBAMA FOR BEGINNERS



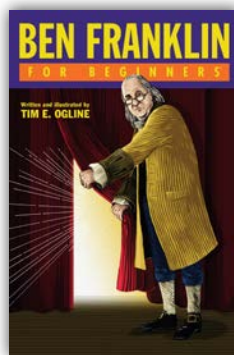
Bob Neer. Illustrated by Joe Lee.

Barack Obama For Beginners is the most concise and reliable short biography available on the 44th President of the United States — from his childhood in Hawaii and Indonesia, education at Columbia and Harvard, work as a community organizer, writer, teacher, lawyer, and politician in Illinois, to his historic campaign for President. *Barack Obama For Beginners* keeps the focus on the man and his record — accomplishments and missteps, praise and criticism — to allow readers to gain a balanced understanding of President Obama as they follow his rise to the White House. Entertaining illustrations enliven the reading

experience and highlight important details.

Current Events/Political Biography • \$12.95 (**\$18.95 CAN**)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 128 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-934389-44-7 | eISBN: 978-1-934389-45-4

BEN FRANKLIN FOR BEGINNERS



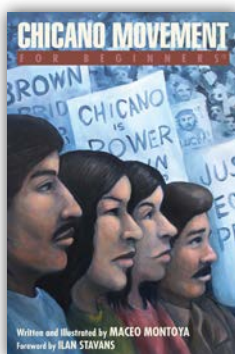
Tim E. Ogline.

Benjamin Franklin narrated and lived the Great American Success Story. As America's prototypical polymath, he excelled—and even defined—a number of professions including printer, writer, postmaster, scientists, inventor, public citizen, politician, and diplomat. He was a cornerstone in the foundation of the United States. He discovered practicable uses for electricity. He was America's first great satirist. He founded the University of Pennsylvania. He invented bifocals. He was a legendary ladies' man. He was all of these things... and was so much more. *Ben Franklin For Beginners* opens the book on Benjamin Franklin and

tells the story of his life and times with wry wit and whimsical drawings.

Politics/History • \$16.99 (**\$24.99 CAN**)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 160 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-934389-48-5 | eISBN: 978-1-934389-72-0

CHICANO MOVEMENT FOR BEGINNERS



Maceo Montoya.
Foreword by Ilan Stavans.

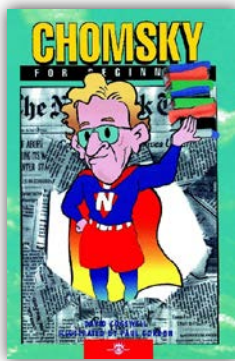
As the heyday of the Chicano Movement of the late 1960s to early 70s fades further into history, and as more and more of its important figures pass on, so too does knowledge of its significance. Thus, *Chicano Movement For Beginners* is a small attempt to stave off historical amnesia.

Beyond commemorating the past, *Chicano Movement For Beginners* seeks to reaffirm the goals and spirit of the Chicano Movement for the simple reason that many of the critical issues Mexican American activists first brought to the nation's attention then—educational disadvantage,

endemic poverty, political exclusion, and social bias—remain as pervasive as ever almost a half-century later.

Latino Studies - Social Sciences • \$15.95 (**\$22.95 CAN**)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 176 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-939994-64-6 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-65-3

CHOMSKY FOR BEGINNERS

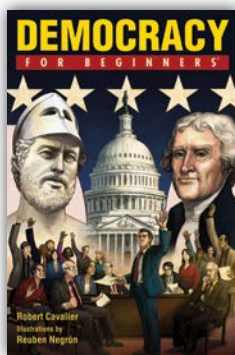


David Cogswell. Illustrated by Paul Gordon.

Noam Chomsky has written some 30 books, is one of the most-quoted authors on Earth, and is both a renowned linguist and political Gadfly. *The New York Times* calls him "arguably the most important intellectual alive" — yet most people have no idea who he is or what he's about. *Chomsky For Beginners* covers Chomsky's work as a linguist and as political critic. The book also includes an exclusive interview with the maverick genius. The clarity of the text and the wit of the illustrations in *Chomsky For Beginners* make strikingly important figure as easy to understand as the genius next door.

Political Science • \$14.95 (**\$21.95 CAN**)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 160 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-934389-17-1 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-01-2

DEMOCRACY FOR BEGINNERS

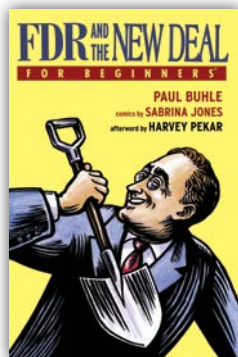


Robert Cavalier. Illustrated by Reuben Negrón.

With all the talk about "democracy" these days, it's surprising how little time is spent concentrating on the concept of democracy itself, its history and justification as a form of political governance. *Democracy for Beginners* looks at democracy's rich evolution in its varied forms, and at some of the challenges democracies face today. Beginning with the rise of democracy in fifth-century Athens and ending with an exploration of what the future might hold, this book is an important resource for understanding the foundation on which our country stands.

History/Politics • \$14.95 (**\$21.95 CAN**)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 128 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-934389-36-2 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-04-2

FDR AND THE NEW DEAL FOR BEGINNERS

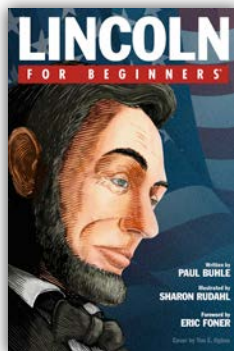


Paul Buhle. Illustrated by Sabrina Jones.
Foreword by Harvey Pekar.

FDR and the New Deal For Beginners sheds new light upon a story now regaining visibility thanks to the recent economic crisis and prominent reformer, President Obama, in the White House. The history of the precedent-making FDR administration through the bitter economic depression, with expansive programs empowering artists and working people, comes alive as the grandest social experiment in the history of American democracy.

Politics/History • \$14.99 (**\$21.99 CAN**)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 160 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-934389-50-8 | eISBN: 978-1-934389-58-4

LINCOLN FOR BEGINNERS

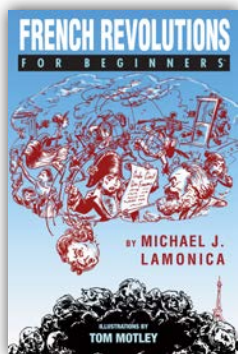


Paul Buhle. Illustrated by Sharon Rudahl.
Foreword by Eric Foner.

There is no greater symbol of the American presidency than Abraham Lincoln. Though, Lincoln himself, his personality, the sources of his dedication and his idealism, remains very much a mystery. Well over a thousand books about Lincoln have been written and still the enigma remains, perhaps because it is the enigma of a young country finding its footing and its destiny. Yet, no part is deeper, more perplexing, than Lincoln's own beliefs about god and destiny. *Lincoln For Beginners* sets to demystify the man behind the legend.

History/United States • \$15.95 (**\$22.95 CAN**)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 176 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-934389-85-0 | eISBN: 978-1-934389-86-7

FRENCH REVOLUTIONS FOR BEGINNERS



Michael J. LaMonica. Illustrated by Tom Motley.

While most people have some familiarity with names like Louis XVI and Napoleon, the details of what exactly happened during the French Revolution – apart from pithy royal pronouncements about cake eating and the ever-falling blade of the guillotine – are often difficult to understand, and for good reason: there were a whopping 15 changes of government in less than a century! *French Revolutions For Beginners* will present the major political figures, events and hot-button political issues of this extremely violent, chaotic, confusing – but always exciting – period in a way that is accessible, interesting, and fun to

both history-buffs and the neophyte alike.

History/Western Europe • \$15.95 (**\$22.95 CAN**)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 176 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-934389-91-1 | eISBN: 978-1-934389-92-8

PRISON INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX FOR BEGINNERS



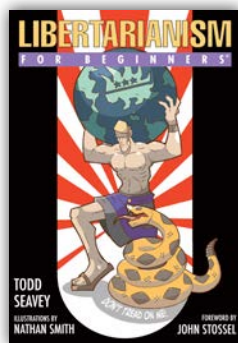
James Braxton Peterson.
Illustrated by John Jennings.

Prison Industrial Complex For Beginners is a graphic narrative project that attempts to distill the fundamental components of what scholars, activists, and artists have identified as the Mass Incarceration movement in the United States. As far back as the early 1990s, activist critics of the US prison system, marked its emergence as a “complex” in a manner comparable to how President Eisenhower identified modern developments in military contractual arrangements and the monetary incentives that were poised to over-determine the ethics of warfare and

the purpose of arms development – the Military Industrial Complex. Like its institutional “cousin,” the Prison Industrial Complex features a critical combination of political ideology, far-reaching federal policy, and the neo-liberal directive to privatize institutions traditionally within the purview of the government.

Social Science • \$15.95 (**\$22.95 CAN**)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 176 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-939994-31-8 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-32-5

LIBERTARIANISM FOR BEGINNERS

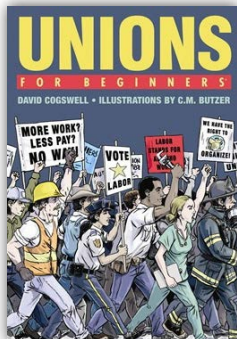


Todd Seavey. Illustrated by Nathan Smith.
Foreword by John Stossel.

A political and economic philosophy as old as John Locke and John Stuart Mill, but as alive and timely as Rand Paul, the Tea Party, and the novels of Ayn Rand, Libertarianism emphasizes individual rights and calls for a radical reduction in the power and size of government. *Libertarianism For Beginners* lays out the history and principles of this often misunderstood philosophy in lucid, dispassionate terms that help illuminate today's political dialogue.

Political Science • \$15.95 (**\$22.95 CAN**)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 220 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-939994-66-0 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-67-7

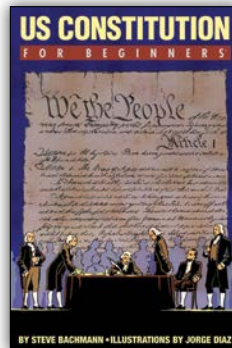
UNIONS FOR BEGINNERS



David Cogswell. Illustrated by C.M. Butzer. Do you appreciate your forty-hour, five-day workweek? Appreciate having a safe working environment? Unions made this all possible in one way or another. Unions bring value to all sectors of a society. A vast amount of Americans (including union members) are unaware of the full history of unions and how they have impacted the American workplace today. *Unions For Beginners* provides an introduction to that essential history. Illustrated with witty and informative illustrations, this book presents the epic story of the labor movement in a simple, memorable way.

History/Politics • \$16.99 (\$24.99 CAN)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 176 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-934389-77-5 | eISBN: 978-1-934389-78-2

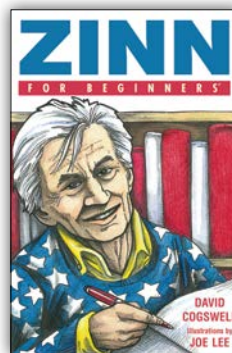
US CONSTITUTION FOR BEGINNERS



Steve Bachmann. Illustrated by Jorge Diaz. In a combination of witty text and illustrations *US Constitution For Beginners* take a tongue-in-cheek look at America's most critical legal document. Author and lawyer Steve Bachmann has written a text that touches on the document's history beginning with the Magna Carta. He then traces the events that precipitated its writing, the personalities and motives of the people who create it, and its use and misuses since ratification. The book analyzes crucial elements of this binding set of principles and ponders the future of the Constitution.

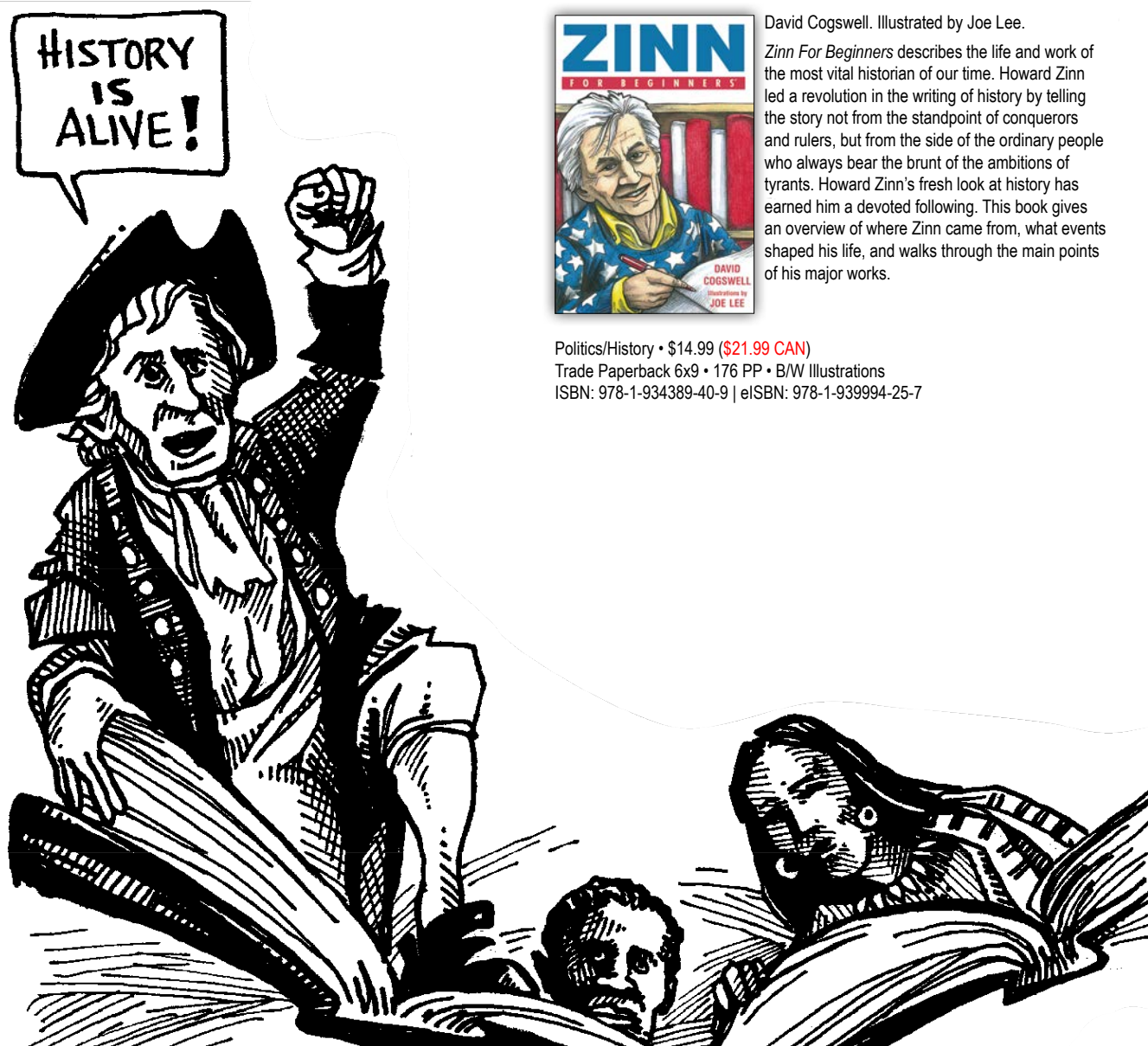
History/Government • \$16.99 (\$24.99 CAN)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 160 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-934389-62-1 | 978-1-934389-66-9

ZINN FOR BEGINNERS

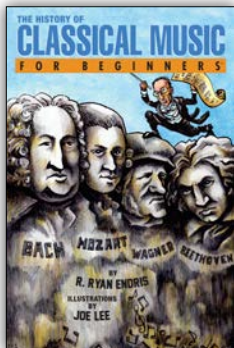


David Cogswell. Illustrated by Joe Lee. *Zinn For Beginners* describes the life and work of the most vital historian of our time. Howard Zinn led a revolution in the writing of history by telling the story not from the standpoint of conquerors and rulers, but from the side of the ordinary people who always bear the brunt of the ambitions of tyrants. Howard Zinn's fresh look at history has earned him a devoted following. This book gives an overview of where Zinn came from, what events shaped his life, and walks through the main points of his major works.

Politics/History • \$14.99 (\$21.99 CAN)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 176 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-934389-40-9 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-25-7



THE HISTORY OF CLASSICAL MUSIC FOR BEGINNERS

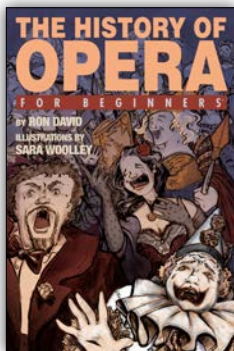


R. Ryan Endris. Illustrated by Joe Lee.

Music history is nearly as old as human civilization itself, and while it has permeated the arts and popular culture for centuries, it still has this mystifying aura surrounding it. But fear not—it's not as complicated as it seems, and anyone can learn the origins and history of Western art music. In addition to learning how better to understand (and enjoy!) classical music, *The History of Classical Music For Beginners* will help you learn of some of the more interesting and sometimes comical stories behind the music and composers.

Music History/Classical • \$15.95 (\$22.95 CAN)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 176 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-939994-26-4 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-27-1

THE HISTORY OF OPERA FOR BEGINNERS

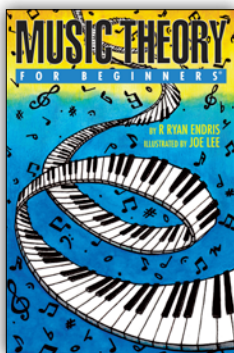


Ron David. Illustrated by Sara Woolley.

The History of Opera For Beginners is an illuminating book that starts with the radical assumption that opera is simply music, rather than the highbrow, inaccessible art form that many assume it to be. Not fluent in German or Italian? No worries—author Ron David explains the differences between Italian and German Opera and why you don't have to study a new language to enjoy it. *The History of Opera For Beginners* is the ideal introduction into the beautiful poetics of opera. Written in short, humorous, and informative chapters, this guide is laced with some of the opera world's juiciest anecdotes, and is sure to make anyone a true believer in the art form.

Music/Opera • \$16.99 (\$24.99 CAN)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 176 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-934389-79-9 | eISBN: 978-1-934389-80-5

MUSIC THEORY FOR BEGINNERS

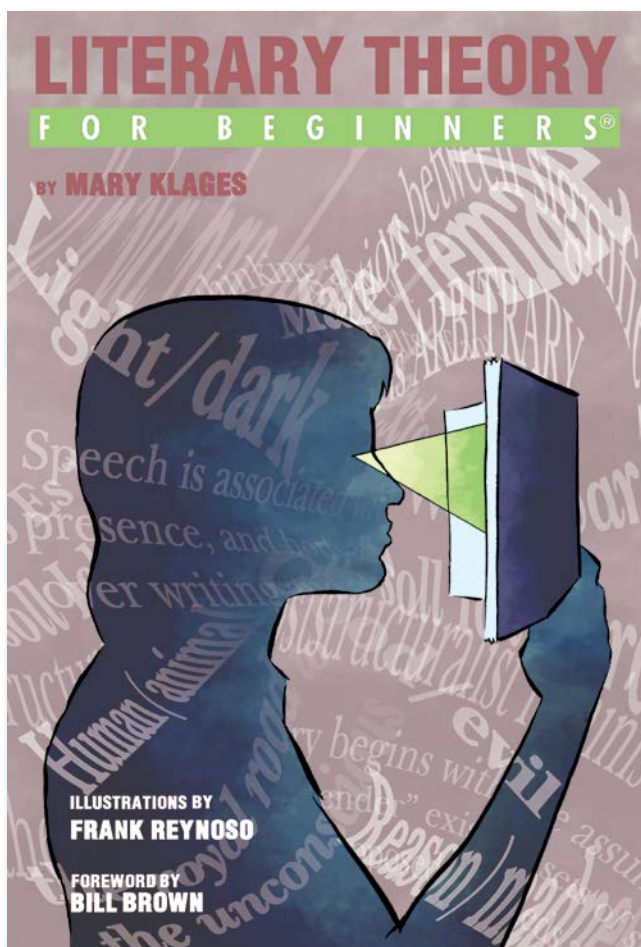


R. Ryan Endris. Illustrated by Joe Lee.

Music Theory For Beginners was developed for anyone interested in learning to read and write music, a task that can be quite daunting for novices. This book, however, will allay any fears and set you on the path to learning what all those dots, lines, and symbols actually mean. It provides the necessary scholarly muscle to entice and inform the reader, yet it does not require any prior knowledge of music or force the reader to wade through hundreds of pages of jargon and details.

Music/Theory • \$15.95 (\$22.95 CAN)
Trade Paperback 6x9 • 192 PP • B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-939994-46-2 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-47-9

Literary Theory For Beginners



Literary Theory: Literary/Criticism & Theory
Trade Paperback 6x9
216 PP
\$15.95 (\$22.95 CAN)
B/W Illustrations
ISBN: 978-1-939994-60-8
eISBN: 978-1-939994-61-5

Have you heard the terms *structuralism* and *deconstruction* and *postmodernism* but aren't really sure what they mean? Have you taken a whole course on literary criticism but are still feeling lost? Here's the book you need to sort it all out—and enjoy doing so!

In *Literary Theory For Beginners*, Professor Mary Klages takes you into her classroom, cuts through the jargon, explains the ABCs (and the DEFs as well) in terms you can get your head around. Her wit, her unique skills as a teacher, and the delightful illustrations of Frank Reynoso help us understand why literature matters, how it affects us, and how it reflects history, culture, and diversity. Here are ways of thinking about literature, not just reading it—methods of study and frameworks of interpretation from classical humanism all the way up to psychoanalysis, gender and queer theory, race, postcolonialism, and, yes, postmodernism. So sit back, relax, and learn!

“Told with an impressive wealth of knowledge, pedagogical skill, and wit, this story about literary theory is as enjoyable as it is informative. Mary Klages has a gift for explaining difficult concepts with accessible examples from everyday life. The result is a book that is not only eminently readable but also great fun to think with.”

—Rey Chow, Duke University

MARY KLAGES, AUTHOR Mary Klages is Associate Professor in the English Department of the University of Colorado at Boulder. She is the author of *Literary Theory: A Guide for the Perplexed* (Continuum, 2006) and *Key Terms in Literary Theory* (Continuum, 2012), as well as scholarly works in the fields of American literary history and Disability Studies.

FRANK REYNOSO, ILLUSTRATOR Frank Reynoso is an author and commercial artist based in Brooklyn, New York. His work has appeared in numerous comics including *The Sweetness* (Z2 Comics), *Occupy Comics* (Black Mask Studios) and *World War 3 Illustrated*. He has illustrated *Civil Rights For Beginners* (2016). He enjoys comedy, science fiction, and dark fantasy with wine and good friends.

ANARCHISM FOR BEGINNERS



Marcos Mayer. Illustrated by Sanyú.

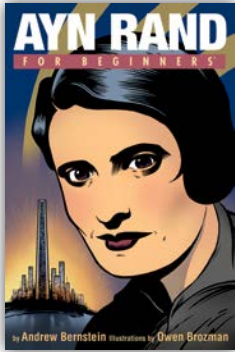
The anarchists' fight against power, oppression and the State, which reached its pinnacle with the farmers' collectives of pre-Franco Spain, has influenced societies around the world. Vanguard artistic movements high and low, from dada to punk, were inspired by anarchism. In *Anarchism For Beginners*, Marcos Mayer aided by illustrations from the incomparable Sanyú, takes readers on a journey through the anarchist movement, explaining its principles and documenting its influence, inspiring figures and indefatigable fighting spirit.

Political Science • \$14.95 (\$21.95 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 176 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-32-4 | eISBN: 978-1-934389-73-7

AYN RAND FOR BEGINNERS



Andrew Bernstein.

Illustrated by Owen Brozman.

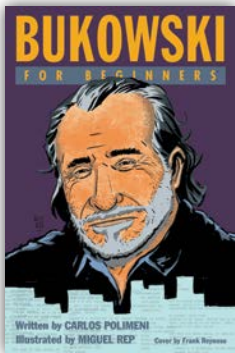
Despite Ayn Rand's undeniably significant contributions to the literary canon and the progression of philosophy, there has been no simple, comprehensive introduction to Rand's books and ideas, until now. *Ayn Rand For Beginners* sheds new light on Rand's monumental works and robust philosophy. In clear, down-to-earth language, it explains Rand to a new generation of readers in a manner that is entertaining, and easy to read and comprehend.

Politics/Literature • \$14.99 (\$21.99 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 112 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-37-9 | eISBN: 978-1-934389-71-3

BUKOWSKI FOR BEGINNERS



Carlos Polimeni. Illustrated by Miguel Repiso.

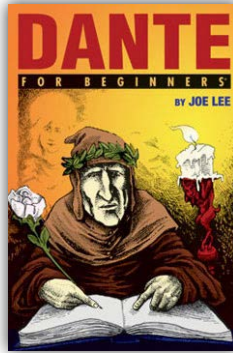
Bukowski lived an unorthodox, idiosyncratic life and wrote in a style that was unique—a style that is impossible to classify or categorize. His work was at times cynical or humorous, but was always brilliant and challenging. He began writing at the age of 40 and published 45 books, six of them novels. Along with Raymond Chandler, he is considered one of the great voices of Los Angeles. In *Bukowski For Beginners*, playwright Carlos Polimeni evaluates the life and literary achievements of the cult writer whose voice of dissidence and discontent is still heard and appreciated by readers worldwide.

Poetry/Literature • \$15.95 (\$22.95 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 160 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-939994-37-0 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-38-7

DANTE FOR BEGINNERS



Joe Lee.

Dante For Beginners takes the reader on a trip starting in hell and ending in heaven. The reader gets a quick introduction to Dante and his times. Next, the reader meets a sweet lass named Beatrice and samples a bit of his other literary offerings, such as the great feast, the *Convivio*. But then it's on to the big one, the *Commedia*, and a canto by canto description of the entire work. Characters, ideas and situations are described as they happen—no searching through end notes, footnotes or field notes to distinguish Forese Donati, Dante's pal, from his evil brother, Corso. The entire plan of the hereafter is simply mapped

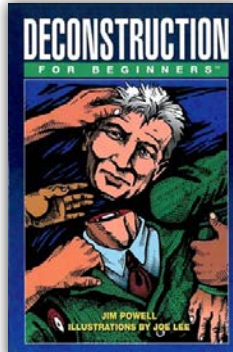
out. *Dante For Beginners* is a great vacation with history's greatest tourist, Dante Alighieri.

Poetry/Literature • \$16.99 (\$24.99 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 192 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-67-6 | eISBN: 978-1-934389-68-3

DECONSTRUCTION FOR BEGINNERS



Jim Powell. Illustrated by Joe Lee.

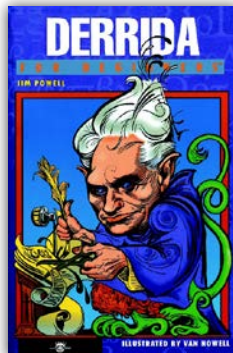
Deconstruction is so labyrinthine (and rumored to be fatal) that it's become the monster that murdered philosophy. When Jacques Derrida, the father of deconstruction, uses buzz-words such as "phallogocentrism" and "transcendental signified," humanities students and aspiring philosophers may get weak in the knees. *Deconstruction For Beginners* is an irreverent romp through deconstructive domains. Though Powell offers lucid explanations of the most important deconstructive ideas and texts, he also dives into lesser known works.

Western Philosophy • \$16.99 (\$24.99 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 168 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-26-3 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-03-5

DERRIDA FOR BEGINNERS



Jim Powell. Illustrated by Van Howell.

Derrida is one of those annoying geniuses you can take a class on, read half-a-dozen books by and still have no idea what he's talking about. *Derrida For Beginners* is the clearest explanation of Derrida and deconstruction presently available in our solar system. Powell guides us through Derrida's blindingly obscure texts. Readers will learn the coolest Derridian buzzwords (intertextuality, binary oppositions, hymen, sous rature, arche-writing, phallogocentrism), the high-and-low lights of deconstruction's history, and the various criticisms of Derrida, including Camille Paglia's objection that America, the rock-n-roll

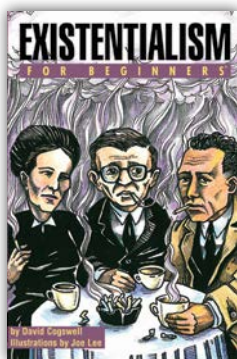
nation, isn't formal enough to need deconstruction.

Philosophy/Biography • \$16.99 (\$24.99 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 192 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-11-9 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-05-9

EXISTENTIALISM FOR BEGINNERS



David Cogswell. Illustrated by Joe Lee.

Existentialism For Beginners is an entertaining romp through the history of a philosophical movement that has had a broad and enduring influence on Western culture. From the middle of the Nineteenth Century through the late Twentieth Century, existentialism informed our politics and art, and still exerts its influence today. Tracing the movement's beginnings with close-up views of seminal figures like Kierkegaard, Dostoyevsky and Nietzsche, *Existentialism For Beginners* follows its intellectual and literary trail to German philosophers Jaspers and Heidegger, and finally to the movement's flowering in post-World War II

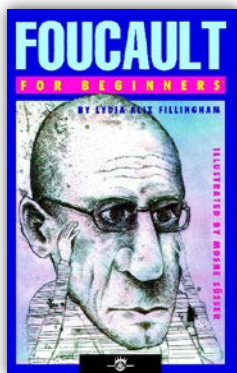
France thanks to masterworks by such giants as Jean Paul Sartre, Albert Camus, Simone de Beauvoir, plus many others.

Philosophy/Literature • \$14.95 (**\$21.95 CAN**)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 192 PP • B/W Illustrations

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FOUCAULT FOR BEGINNERS



Lydia Alix Fillingham. Illustrated by Moshe Süsser.

Michel Foucault's work has profoundly affected the teaching of such diverse disciplines as literary criticism, criminology, and gender studies. Arguing that definitions of abnormal behavior are culturally constructed, Foucault explored the unfair division between those who meet and those who deviate from social norms. Foucault's deeply visual sense of scenes such as ritual public executions lends itself well to Moshe Süsser's dramatic illustrations.

Philosophy/Biography • \$16.99 (**\$24.99 CAN**)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 112 PP • B/W Illustrations

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FREEMASONRY FOR BEGINNERS



Robert Lomas. Illustrated by Sarah Becan. Foreword by Gordon Echlin.

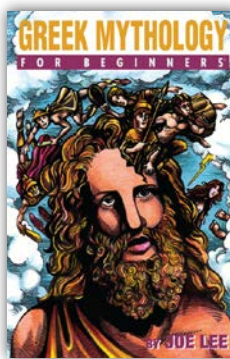
Freemasonry For Beginners explores the objectives and teaching methods of Freemasonry and describes its influence on society in the past, present, and future. It recounts the origins of the movement in Scotland, its spread to North America and the rest of the world, and a mythical history that traces its descent from Adam down to Zerubbabel. Not least of all, it shows how Masonic teachings have helped so many members over the centuries learn the skills to become leaders in society, science, and the arts.

Religion & Spirituality • \$15.95 (**\$22.95 CAN**)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 176 PP • B/W Illustrations

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GREEK MYTHOLOGY FOR BEGINNERS



Joe Lee.

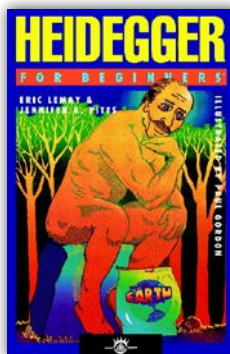
Greek Mythology For Beginners presents the pantheon – that immortal collection of rogues and heroes, misfits and tyrants – and the stories about these deities and their dealings with the mortals. It delves into their undying influence on our thought and culture, and how each age from Rome to Shakespeare to Freud down to our own Marvel Comics and NASA has been enlightened, informed, and inspired by these tales. So strap on Hermes' winged sandals, saddle-up Pegasus, or even grab the nearest Harpy (remember to keep your eyes closed) and come along for the ride of your life.

Classics/Mythology • \$16.99 (**\$24.99 CAN**)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 208 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-83-6 | eISBN: 978-1-934389-84-3

HEIDEGGER FOR BEGINNERS



Eric Lemay & Jennifer A. Pitts. Illustrated by Paul Gordon.

The ideas of the German philosopher Martin Heidegger have been described as an intellectual time bomb, as some of the most revolutionary thought in Western history. Despite the enormous amount of secondary scholarships available on Heidegger, it is – due to the complexity of his thought and the density of his writing – difficult for the curious beginner to gain an insight into Heidegger's philosophy. *Heidegger For Beginners* serves as an entry into the ideas of one of the 20th Century's most important thinkers, situating Heidegger's thought within its philosophical and

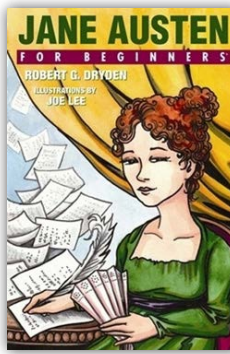
historical context.

Philosophy/Biography • \$16.99 (**\$24.99 CAN**)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 128 PP • B/W Illustrations

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JANE AUSTEN FOR BEGINNERS



Robert Dryden. Illustrated by Joe Lee.

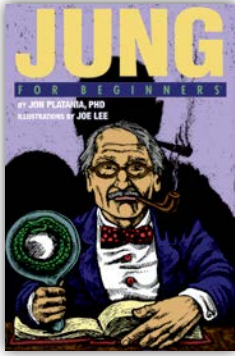
On their surface, Austen's novels all involve characters from provincial communities in rural England, far removed geographically and thematically from greater social movements, war, industry, colonization, and imperialism. This impression could not be further from the truth. *Jane Austen For Beginners* explores the intentions behind Austen's work. Her examination of money and power, of the marriage market, of social class, and of the rending of the British social fabric of her day are among her many concerns.

Literature/Fiction • \$16.99 (**\$24.99 CAN**)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 176 PP • B/W Illustrations

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JUNG FOR BEGINNERS



Jon Platania, Ph.D. Illustrated by Joe Lee.

Carl Gustav Jung merged Eastern mysticism with Western psychology, brought scientific respectability to religion, laid the foundation for 'the New Age,' and is second only to Freud in influence and importance in the world of psychoanalysis. Many consider him a genius, but many others disagree. Dr. Platania then takes us on a tour of the work that made Jung one of the pillars of modern psychology. And what a body of work it is. Jung taught us that psychology and religion can not only coexist peacefully together, but that they can enhance us, inspire us, and help us complete ourselves.

Psychology • \$16.99 (\$24.99 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 160 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-76-8 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-11-0

LINGUISTICS FOR BEGINNERS



W. Terrence Gordon.

Illustrated by Susan Willmarth.

Linguistics For Beginners is the first book to make the arcane labors of linguistics accessible to general readers. It begins with a lucid definition of language and proceeds to examine how it becomes the subject matter of linguistics. Key topics include the contrast between writing and speech, and elementary lessons in analyses ranging from simple sounds to entire sentences. Absurd fictions such as Eskimos having hundreds of words for snow are exploded, and the borderlands between linguistics and philosophy are investigated. The book teaches concise lessons

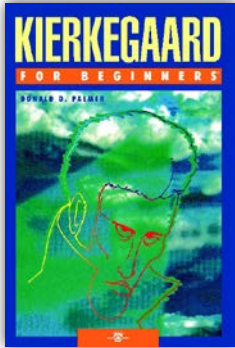
using wit and whimsy making for a memorable learning experience.

Linguistics/Philosophy • \$14.95 (\$21.95 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 128 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-28-7 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-14-1

KIERKEGAARD FOR BEGINNERS



Donald D. Palmer.

The Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard was one of the most original thinkers of the 19th Century – and one of the most enigmatic men who ever walked the Earth. Philosophically, his attack on social and religious complacency and his single-handed assault on traditional Western philosophy generated a crisis that produced a radically new way of philosophizing and made him the founder of the school that would later be called Existentialism. *Kierkegaard For Beginners* explains, plainly and simply, the great Danish thinker's obsession with the particularity of human

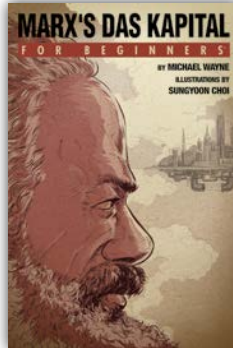
existence as well as his demonstration of how the creation of an authentic new kind of individual is possible.

Philosophy/Biography • \$16.99 (\$24.99 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 160 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-14-0 | eISBN: 978-1-939994-12-7

MARX'S DAS KAPITAL FOR BEGINNERS



Michael Wayne. Illustrated by Sungyoon Choi.

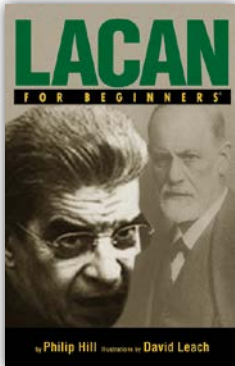
Marx's 'Das Kapital' cannot be put into a box marked "economics." It is a work of politics, history, economics, philosophy, and even literature. *Marx's 'Das Kapital' For Beginners* is an introduction to the Marxist critique of capitalist production and its consequences for a whole range of social activities such as politics, media, education and religion. The book offers an accessible path through Marx's arguments and his key questions. Marx's work has taken on a fresh urgency as questions about the sustainability of the capitalist system in today's global economy intensify.

History/Economics • \$16.99 (\$24.99 CAN)

Trade Paperback 6x9 • 176 PP • B/W Illustrations

ISBN: 978-1-934389-59-1 | eISBN: 978-1-934389-63-8

LACAN FOR BEGINNERS



Philip Hill. Illustrated by David Leach.

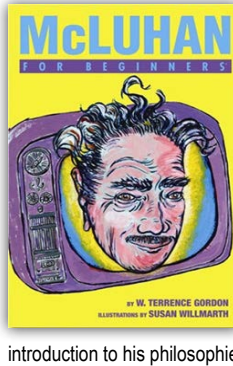
Jacques Lacan is probably the most influential psychoanalyst since Freud (of the roughly 20,000 psychoanalysts in the world, about half are 'Lacanian') yet most people know nothing about him. Lacan wrote with an obscure style that casually refers to philosophy, linguistics, biology, mathematics, etc.—and to make matters worse, his ideas changed over the years. *Lacan For Beginners* introduces the reader to Lacan's theories and their relation to clinical practice. The book is designed around questions that clarify Lacan's ideas and is written with insight and illustrated with examples from popular culture.

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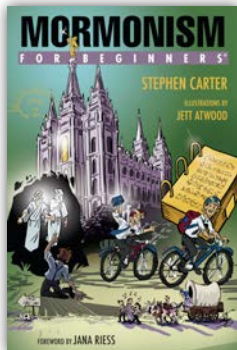
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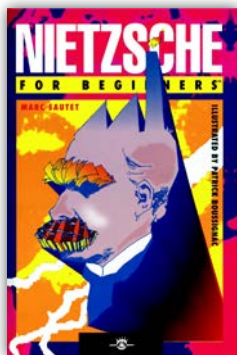


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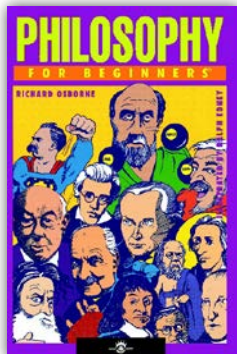


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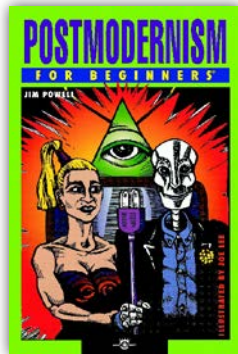


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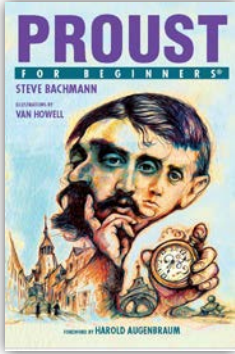


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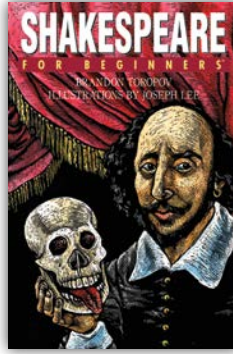
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Ferdinand de Saussure's work is so powerful that it not only redefined modern linguistics, it also opened our minds to new ways of approaching anthropology, literary criticism, and psychoanalysis. By 1911, he had taught a general linguistics course only three times. Upon his death, however, his students were so inspired by his teachings that they published them as the "Course in General Linguistics." *Saussure For Beginners* takes you through this course, points out the unifying principles, and shows how these ideas migrated from linguistics to other subjects.

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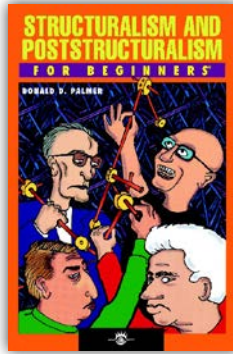


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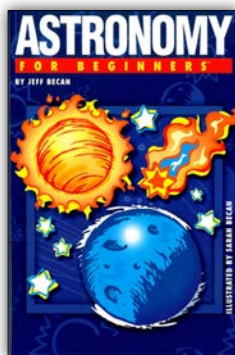
Ron David. Illustrated by Dick Shearer.
Foreword by Elizabeth Beaulieu.
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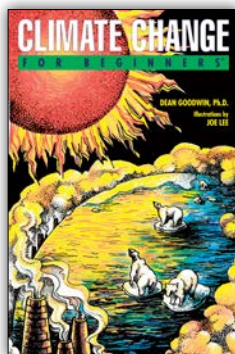


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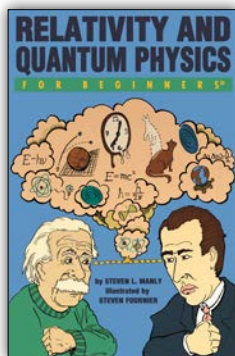
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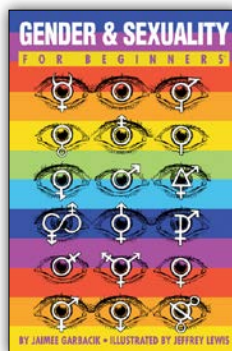
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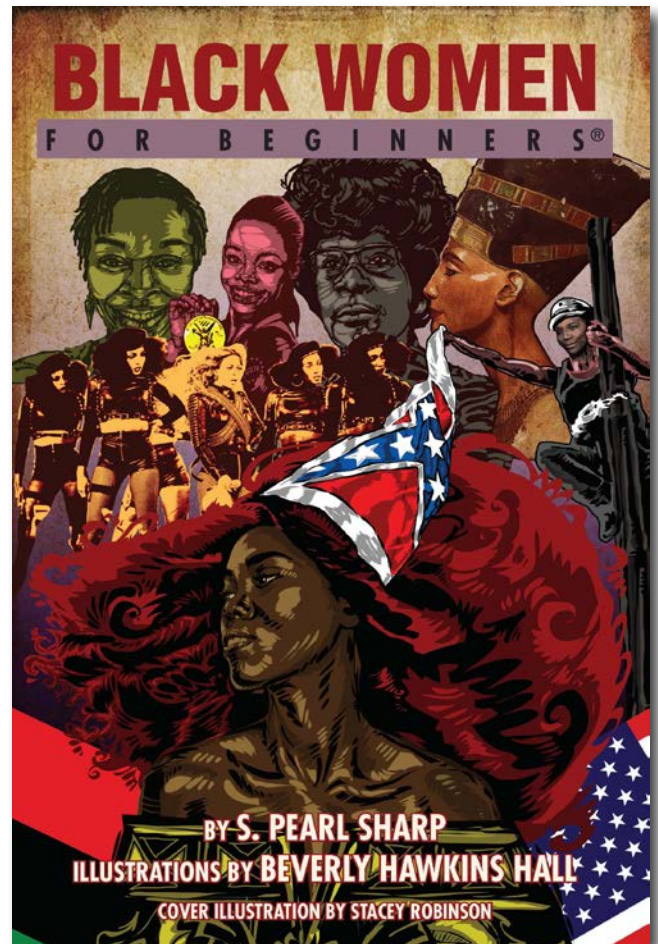
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